



Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter



New York's 28th District

Monroe County | Winter 2003



Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I continue to represent Rochester for the 17th year in the U.S. House of Representatives. Although the physical boundaries of my district have changed, my commitment to providing jobs and improving homeland security, education and health care has not. Please take a moment to read about the work I have been doing in the Rochester area and in Washington over the last few months. As always, if you ever need assistance, please contact my office at 585-232-4850 or my web site at www.louise.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Leading the Fight in Congress to Ban Genetic Discrimination

Did you know that there is no overarching federal law preventing employers and health insurers from testing your DNA without your consent, and then using that information to discriminate against you? Rep. Slaughter, a microbiologist with a Master's Degree

in Public Health, has led the fight in the U.S. House to pass legislation to ban genetic discrimination for the past eight years. This issue affects every human being, since we all carry dozens of genetic mutations that can predispose us to certain diseases. In October,

President Bush announced his support for this legislation, and the U.S. Senate passed it unanimously. Rep. Slaughter will continue to press the House leadership to take up and pass this very important bill.



Rep. Slaughter joins U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe (ME), Jim Jeffords (VT), Edward Kennedy (MA), Tom Harkin (IA) and Tom Daschle (SD) to announce Senate passage of legislation to ban genetic discrimination.

Fighting for Health Care and Improved Benefits for Rochester's Veterans

Increased spending on defense and homeland security should not mean cuts to other vital programs, especially those serving our nation's veterans. Rep. Slaughter has joined local leaders to protest the closing of the Canandaigua VA Medical Center, which provides health care to thousands of veterans and jobs for hundreds more in the Rochester area.

Rep. Slaughter wrote letters to the Veterans Administration, met personally with VA Secretary Anthony Principi and testified on a panel to demand that the VA reconsider its decision. Rep. Slaughter has also co-sponsored legislation that would reduce the age for receiving military retirement pay for guard and reservists and a bill that would allow disabled veterans to receive both

their military retirement and disability pensions in full. This bill would restore millions of dollars in benefits to thousands of veterans in New York State. Rep. Slaughter will continue to fight in Congress to make sure that our veterans, national heroes who have risked their lives to serve our country, will receive the benefits they deserve.



Rep. Slaughter announces federal funding at a ground-breaking at the Port of Rochester with Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson Jr., State Senator Joe Robach, Rochester City Councilman Bob Stevenson and others.

Improving the Port of Rochester

Improving and securing the Port of Rochester has always been a top priority for Rep. Slaughter, who has obtained more than \$25 million over the years to help develop the Rochester waterfront and prepare for the fast ferry project. This year, Rep. Slaughter:

- Obtained \$1.25 million for the Electronic Port of Rochester Transportation and Security System (E-Port). E-Port will implement several technologies at the Port to improve security and service.
- Secured \$300,000 to dredge the Rochester Harbor, which will improve access for the Coast Guard, Shumway Marine, tour boat operators on the Genesee River and the proposed fast ferry.
- Announced a \$1.1 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security for port security enhancements related to the fast ferry project.
- Announced that three important road improvement projects at the Port had been completed.

What's going on in the rest of the 28th Congressional District? To view other county newsletters, call the district office at 585-232-4850 or log on to www.louise.house.gov.

Supporting Rochester's First Responders

As a senior member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, Rep. Slaughter has fought to ensure that first responders have the tools they need to protect our communities. In September, she joined law enforcement officials in Rochester to announce the introduction of the Preparing America to Respond Effectively (PREPARE) Act.

This important legislation will improve the first responder funding system, reform color-coded threat warnings and improve communications and equipment interoperability. The bill is part of a five-point agenda on homeland security that Rep. Slaughter and her colleagues introduced in September.



Rep. Slaughter joins local emergency personnel at a press conference in Rochester to announce new federal legislation for first responders.

Cleaning Up Lead Paint

Lead poisoning is a major public health hazard that has devastated Rochester.

According to recent studies, more than 1,200 children in Rochester suffered from lead poisoning in 2002.

Rep. Slaughter has fought successfully to increase funding for programs to clean up lead paint—the biggest cause of lead poisoning in children. In September, she announced that the City of Rochester received \$4 million in federal funding to combat lead paint. These important grants will help the City

remove lead paint from hundreds of residences across the city.

In October, Rep. Slaughter stood with local leaders to announce that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired - Goodwill Industries of Rochester a grant to operate its National Lead Paint Information Hotline. The grant will make ABVI-Goodwill a central clearinghouse for information on lead paint, helping to prevent lead poisoning while providing employment opportunities.

Protecting Athletic Opportunities for Women

Rochester's own Abby Wambach made the nation proud with her star performance on the Women's World Cup national team. Female participation in athletics has boomed since the enactment of Title IX in 1972, the landmark educational equity law that has created increased opportunities for women to play sports.

Unfortunately, opportunities for female athletes are at risk. This year, the Administration proposed changing Title IX, jeopardizing this extraordinarily successful policy. More recently, the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) folded due to a lack of financial support. Rep. Slaughter, co-chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus, led the fight to protect Title IX, repeatedly calling on the Department of Education to drop its plans to make changes to the law. Last spring, she hosted a hearing in Washington with Olympic athletes Mia Hamm and Dominique Dawes to protest the proposal. In July, the

Department of Education heeded her word and announced it would not make changes to Title IX.

Rep. Slaughter has also introduced a resolution in Congress calling attention to the demise of the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) and supporting efforts to revive it. Rep. Slaughter congratulates Abby and her teammates on their performance in the Women's World Cup and will continue to fight for equality in athletics.



Olympic gymnast Dominique Dawes joins young athletes at the U.S. Capitol for a hearing on Title IX hosted by Rep. Slaughter.



In July, Rep. Slaughter held a press conference at the Jefferson Avenue Head Start Center in Rochester to discuss changes to the Head Start program. Following the press conference, she toured the center to visit with students and view the administration of the program first hand.

Defending Head Start

Earlier this year, the Bush Administration proposed sweeping changes to Head Start that could jeopardize the federal preschool program for working families. An avid supporter of Head Start, Rep. Slaughter opposed these changes, which could affect 3,332 children in New York's 28th Congressional District.

In July, Rep. Slaughter stood with teachers, administrators and students at the Jefferson Avenue Head Start Center in Rochester to demand that the Administration drop its plans to change this successful program.

Fighting for Rochester's Seniors

This summer, Rep. Slaughter met with seniors at the Mature Adult Resource Center in downtown Rochester to discuss the Administration's proposal to overhaul the Medicare program. She has long fought to find ways to contain skyrocketing prescription drug costs

and strongly supports efforts to reimport less expensive, FDA-approved medications from Canada and other nations.



Rochester seniors gather with Rep. Slaughter to discuss changes to the federal Medicare program.



Congresswoman
Louise M. Slaughter

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Official Business

Louise M. Slaughter
M.C.

PRSRT. STD

ROCHESTER OFFICE

3120 Federal Building
100 State Street
Rochester, NY 14614
PHONE: 585.232.4850
FAX: 585.232.1954

BUFFALO OFFICE

465 Main Street, Suite 105
Buffalo, NY 14203
PHONE: 716.853.5813
FAX: 716.853.6347

NIAGARA FALLS OFFICE

1910 Pine Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
PHONE: 716.282.1274
FAX: 716.282.2479

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Rochester Highways

In July, Rep. Slaughter announced that she had secured \$1 million for Monroe County's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). ITS will be used to further develop a system of cameras and message signs along key city and county roads. The signs will alert drivers to congested areas when there is an accident and direct them to an alternate route.

Supporting the Troops

Rep. Slaughter salutes the brave men and women who are serving our nation in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. She continues to speak out on issues of safety and living conditions for our troops overseas and recently stood with the Vasko family of Rochester, whose son is serving in Iraq, to call on the Administration and House leadership to do everything possible

to ensure our troops have proper safety equipment. Other key concerns include providing adequate care for soldiers when they return and reducing age requirements for military retirement pay.

Her office serves as a source of information and assistance to military personnel and their loved ones. Please contact her at 585-232-4850 or visit her web site at www.louise.house.gov.



Rep. Slaughter discusses the war in Iraq with a member of the 914th Airlift Wing at a farewell event in March.



Saving AmeriCorps

In July, Rep. Slaughter joined Rochester AmeriCorps administrators and volunteers at a press conference to call on leaders in Washington to drop cuts to the national service program, which serves thousands in Western New York.

2004 Congressional Calendars

Rep. Slaughter is delighted to make the beautiful 2004 congressional wall calendar from the U.S. Capitol Historical Society available to interested constituents. For a free calendar, call her office at 585-232-4850 or send an email through www.louise.house.gov/contact.htm, and a copy will be mailed to you.